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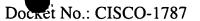
a) allowing broadcast flooding until a mapping of a MAC address to a port is performed by the bridge connected to the plurality of networks; and

- b) disallowing broadcast flooding after the mapping is achieved.
- 2. (Original) The method of claim 1, wherein said allowing and disallowing of broadcast flooding is carried out for each MAC address independently.
- 3. (Original) The method of claim 1, wherein said bridge maintains a data structure to determine when to allow or disallow broadcast flooding.

4. (Original) The method of claim 3, wherein said data structure is a filter table.

- 5. (Original) The method of claim 4, wherein said filter table contains MAC address information with associated flooding time period.
- 6. (Cancelled) In a bridge device having a plurality of ports, a filtering module comprising:
 - a) a flood control unit configured to allow broadcast flooding for a first limited time period, said flood control unit further configured to disallow broadcast flooding for a second time period; and
 - b) a data structure maintain by said flood control unit configured to maintain flood control data.

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. 7. (Gancelled) The filtering module of claim 6, wherein said data structure comprises a filter table containing MAC address information with associated flooding time period.

- 8. (Cancelled) In a bridge device having a plurality of ports, a filtering module comprising:
 - a) means for allowing broadcast flooding for a first limited time period;
 - b) means for disallowing broadcast flooding for a second time period; and
 - c) means for maintaining flood control data operatively coupled to said means for allowing broadcast flooding and said means for disallowing broadcast flooding.

9. (Previously amended) A program storage device readable by a machine, tangibly embodying a program of instructions executable by the machine to perform a method for controlling flooding in a bridged network having a bridge connected to a plurality of networks, said method comprising:

- a) allowing broadcast flooding until a mapping of a MAC address to a port is performed by the bridge; and
 - b) disallowing broadcast flooding after the mapping is achieved.
- 10. (Original) The program storage device of claim 9, wherein said allowing and disallowing of broadcast flooding is carried out for each MAC address independently.
- 11. (Original) The program storage device of claim 9, wherein said bridge maintains a data structure to determine when to allow or disallow broadcast flooding.

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- 12. (Original) The program storage device of claim 11, wherein said data structure is a filter table.
- 13. (Original) The program storage device of claim 12, wherein said filter table contains MAC address information with associated flooding time period.